

February 19, 2017

Senator Catherine Osten

Senator Paul Formica

Representative Toni Walker

RE: Inter-district Magnet School Funding: ACES Educational Center for the Arts

Dear Appropriations Committee:

My name is Paul Garasimowicz and I am a parent of a student who attends ACES Educational Center for the Arts (ECA). I am writing to support magnet school funding and ECA.

As a former public school educator with 15 years of experience, I strongly feel that the programs and opportunities offered at ECA are as unique and diverse as the students that thrive there. In four short years, I have watched my somewhat reserved daughter grow into a confident young woman and accomplished vocalist -with experiences that took her to venues from Carnegie Hall to Beijing, China.

Among the many reasons why funding should NOT be cut from magnet school- in particular ECA:

1. ECA draws 300 students from over 27 townships and communities throughout Connecticut that otherwise would not have this opportunity to participate in diverse fine arts programs such as the one provided by ECA.
2. ECA employs professional practicing artists that work with the students to achieve greater heights of artistry, professionalism, and confidence unique only to ECA.
3. ECA receives more national, state and regional arts awards AND honorable recognitions than any other school in the state of Connecticut!

My daughter, a senior, has been accepted and received generous scholarships from respected universities such as St. John's, Suffolk, and La Salle that indicated in their acceptance letters that her participation in ECA made a major contribution to her portfolio. I am forever grateful for the time my daughter spent at ECA, and it is absolutely unimaginable to me that cuts of any kind would even be considered at any state magnet school- in particular ECA.

I invite you to respond with any questions or further information you may need in regards to funding for magnet schools.

Sincerely,

Paul Garasimowicz

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